

**Introduction to Psychology**  
**PSY 105.1**  
**ID 2999**

Spring 2016

Lecturer: Dr. Mahinur Asanovna Mamatova

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Credits: 6

Language of instruction: English

Course Status: Gen Ed Elective

Schedule: M. 12:45 pm (lecture); seminar: M. 14:10 pm, W. 12:45; 14:10 pm

Individual consultations: M. W. 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm by previous appointment

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce the student to the field of scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. It will primarily focus on biological foundations of behavior, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning, memory, thinking, language, intelligence, motivation and emotion. The course will also explore basic assumptions of classical theories of personality and models of abnormality.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to understand basic principles of organization of human behavior and mental processes. The student will better understand the role of psychological science in everyday life.

**Teaching and Learning Style:**

The course will be interactive and student-centered. Students will be encouraged to think broadly and deeply about psychology and life.

**Text:**

Santrock, John W. (2000). Psychology, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill Inc.

**Resources:** AUCA Library; e-course; <http://www.all-about-psychology.com/>

**Course Requirements:**

- 1. Attendance** (30 points) is required. To be in class on time is expected. Late students will NOT be admitted into the class. Please finish up your personal businesses before class begins. Student is expected to be on class during entire class- time with no early leaving. General medical condition or emergency case will not interfere with your attendance rate.
- 2. In-class work** (30 points). Students are expected to do home assignment, come to class prepared, and participate actively in class discussions and other on-class activities.
- 3. Presentation** (35 points): The student is required to prepare one presentation. See Course Themes below for the list of topics recommended for the presentation. This is your right to perform joint presentation. Creativity and originality of thought are strongly encouraged. Please see the instructor to discuss this assignment in detail.

Grading Criteria for Presentation

Content	7 points
Understanding	8 points

Criticism	8 points
Clarity of statements	5 points
Performance	<u>7 points</u>
	<b>35 points</b>

**4. Mid-term Exam (30 points):** This exam will be held on **Monday, March 14, 12:45 pm**. It will cover the themes studied before. The exam will be multiple choice and true/false.

**5. Final Exam (45 points):** The final will be held during final exam period. The exam will be multiple choices, true/false, fill in the blank. It will cover all themes learned after mid-term exam.

**6. E-course:** During the first week of the semester the student is required to get registered to on-line course through AUCA e-course system. The name of the course is Intro to Psychology (Mamatova). And the password is **ip2016**

**Course Grading Scale:**

Attendance	30 points
In-class work	30 points
Presentation	35 points
Mid-term Exam	30 points
Final Exam	45 points

**Total 170 points**

- A 161 – 170 points
- A- 151 – 160 points
- B+ 140 – 150 points
- B 129– 139 points
- B- 115 – 128 points
- C+ 101 – 114 points
- C 87 – 100 points
- C- 73 – 86 points
- D 60 – 72 points
- F below 60

**Course Themes**

**January 18-20** Introduction to syllabus. What is Psychology? Brief historical overview. Major perspectives in Psychology: Psychodynamic psychology, Learning approach, Existential-humanistic psychology. What do psychologists do? Research Methods in Psychology.

*pp. 3-31 (hereinafter specified pages of the main text Santrock, John W. (2000). Psychology, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill Inc referred.)*

**January 25 -26** Biological Foundations and Neuroscience: heredity, natural selection, the human nervous system, the brain.

*pp. 33-63; pp. 65-99*

**February 1- 3** Sensation and Perception. Absolute and Difference Thresholds. Subliminal Perception. Sensibilisation and Habituation. Vision. Hearing, Skin Senses, Taste and Smell

Presentation: Gestalt Principles of Perception

*pp. 101-127*

**February 8 - 10** Principles of Social Perception

Presentation 1: Visual illusions

Presentation 2: Audial illusions

*pp. 128-147, pp. 552-556, pp. 559-575*

**February 15-17** Consciousness. Altered States of Consciousness. Sleeping and Dreaming.

*pp. 149 – 183*

Presentation 1: Biochemical substances and altered states of consciousness

Presentation 2: Hypnosis

**February 22 – 24** Learning. Reflex. Classical Pavlovian Conditioning. John Watson's Little Albert Experiment. Generalization of a Conditioned Reflex. Operant Conditioning. Skinner's Theory of Reinforcement. Observational Learning (Modeling)

*pp. 185-205*

Presentation 1: Operant conditioning. Skinner's Box. The schedule of reinforcement.

Presentation 2: Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory. The Bobo Doll Experiment.

**February 29 – March 2** Memory. Short-Term Memory. Long-Term Memory. Retrieval and Forgetting.

*pp. 207-215; pp. 217- 251*

Presentation 1: The problem of eyewitness memory

Presentation 2: Mnemonics: how to improve your memory?

**March 7 - 9** Thinking and Language. Categories of Thinking. Solving Problems. Decision Making. Language Structure. Theories of Language.

*pp. 253-283*

Presentation 1: Theories of language acquisition: Noam Chomsky's theory of language. Lev Vygotsky's theory of language development.

Presentation 2: Can animals use language to express thought?

**Monday, March 14 , 12:45 pm MID-TERM EXAM**

**March 16** Intelligence. IQ tests. The Theory of Multiple Intelligence. Social Intelligence. Mental Retardation. Giftedness. Creativity.

pp. 285- 317

Presentation 1: Social/Emotional Intelligence

Presentation 2: Giftedness and Creativity

**March 28-30** Motivation. Instincts, need and drives. Abraham Maslow's Theory of Motivation. Sexuality. Psychosexual Dysfunctions.

pp. 367- 392

Presentation: Abraham Maslow's Theory of Motivation.

**April 4-6** Emotion: Biological, Cognitive, and Socio-Cultural Dimension.

pp. 393 - 409

Presentation 1: Cognitive theories of emotion

Presentation 2: Cultural aspects of emotion

**April 11 – 13** Personality. Psychodynamic Perspective. Cognitive-Behavioral Perspective. Existential-Humanistic Perspective

pp. 411-445

Presentation 1: Biological aspects of personality.

Presentation 2: Cognitive view on personality

**April 18 - 20** Personality. Psychodynamic Perspective. Cognitive-Behavioral Perspective. Existential-Humanistic Perspective (cont.)

pp. 447-513

Presentation 1: Social aspects of personality

**April 25 – 27** Abnormal Development and Therapies

Presentation: Psychotherapy

**May 2 – 4** Course Review

Presentation: Professional ethics of psychologists. Ethical issues in psychological research.

FINAL EXAM (TBA)